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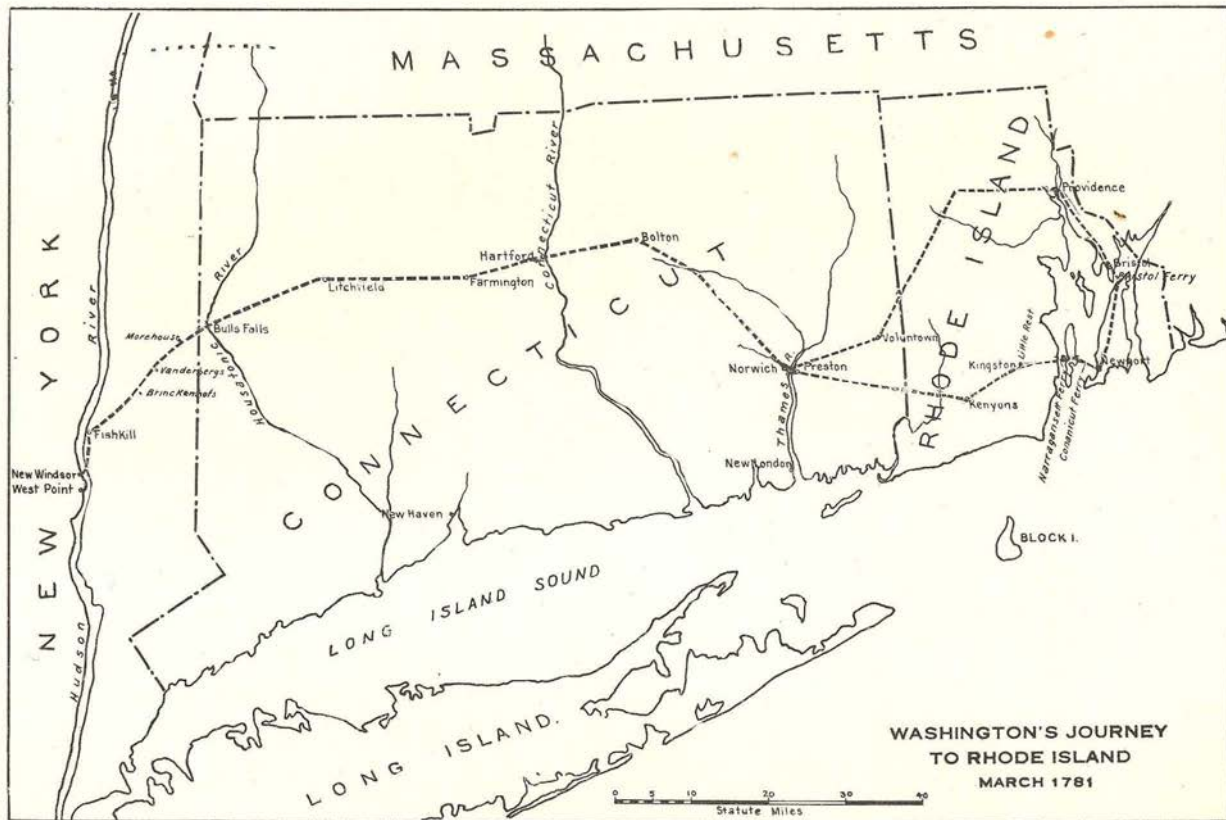
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The Visit of
General Washington to
Newport in 1781

By
MRS. FRENCH E. CHADWICK



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The Visit of General Washington to Newport in 1781

A Paper Read Before the Society December 17th, 1912

By MRS. FRENCH E. CHADWICK

This paper upon Washington's visit to Rhode Island in March, 1781, the visit being made to confer with Count Rochambeau, the commander of the French expeditionary army which had arrived in Narragansett Bay July 10, 1780, had its origin in a discussion regarding documentary evidence of Washington's occupancy of a certain pew in Trinity Church on the Sunday of his stay in Newport. During the search I accidentally came across every detail of his journey from his headquarters at New Windsor on the Hudson and return. This so excited my interest that I felt driven to deal with the whole journey, and with the question of the pew as merely an incident.

The papers which I mention as having accidentally found are the memoranda of expenses in the handwriting itself of Colonel Tench Tilghman, one of Washington's aides. I came across these in a search last winter in the Congressional Library at Washington. Tilghman gives the whole of the expenses of the journey in detail.

The paper is headed: "Dr.—The United States to Lt. Colo. Tilghman—Cr. 1781 March. To cash Pd Expenses of the Com-

mander in Chief to Newport and back to New Windsor—viz.:" (Here followed the details).

✓ Before proceeding to mention expenditures, it is necessary to state that these are given in the Continental Currency which at the time of Washington's journey may be taken as at least sixty dollars in paper to one of specie. On May 1, 1781, the Pennsylvania Council officially rated it at 175 to 1 and it soon dwindled to the value of old paper only.

✓ Following the items, I find the General started from New Windsor on the Hudson, between Newburgh and West Point, with his two aids, Colonel Tench Tilghman and David Humphreys, and also "Major General Robert Howe." They crossed the river to Fishkill and made their first stop at Vanderburgh's. The time of starting was March 2nd, so that weather and roads were at their worst.

On Erskine's Draught of Military Roads No. 35, the Vanderburgh farm is put down as Vanderberry's. In Fernow's N. Y. State Archives Vol. 1 it is called Van DeBurgh, a farm just east of where the Bushkill enters the Fishkill. In the General History of Dutchess County by Philip H. Smith, p. 140, there is a picture of Colonel Vanderburgh's house. On page 141 it says "It is stated that General Washington was once the guest of Col. Vanderburgh at his house, having occasion to stop here when passing between Fishkill and some Eastern points."

Here Colonel Tilghman spent 483 dollars for the party, probably for a meal for horses and men. The note attached to the Memorandum says, "Old Continental money, which remained in my hands after the Commander in Chief returned from Wethersfield. Continental money then sunk entirely and was no longer in circulation." Tench Tilghman.

From Vanderburgh's they went to Morehouse's, where is now the town of Dover. In the Chastellux Diary when making somewhat the same journey he says: "The inn I was going to, is in the Oblong. It is kept by Colonel Moorehouse."

Here I fancy they took a longer rest as their expenses were more than double, \$1034; probably they spent the first night there. The next day there was a mishap, for the following item is "Getting a horse out of Bull's Falls, \$215." This point is just on the borders of Connecticut; de Chastilux says of it, "The Housatonick is not navigable and is easily forded near Bull's

Iron Works. We then turned to the left, it is impossible not to be lost in admiration." The up-hill and down-dale of this region is very lovely, but rough and stony the roads were no doubt, then as now, for "Shoeing Horses \$34" comes next.

At Litchfield they only spend \$687, so I think that the second night as they went to the east was spent at Farmington and at Litchfield as they returned.

It must be about fifty miles by the roads from Morehouse's to Farmington but in the days when most of the traveling was done on horse-back, this was not accounted too long a ride. Colonel Israel Angell mentions in his diary that an officer on scout duty rode 180 miles in three days.

Farmington was also a place of rest for de Chastellux, who says (p. 36) "The next place I was to stop at, was Farmington. Mr. Wadsworth fearing I should not find a good Inn there, gave me a letter of recommendation to one of his friends of the name of Lewis where I should pay my reckoning as at an Inn. In fact, when taverns are bad, or they are so situated as not to suit the convenience of the travellers it is the custom in America to ask for quarters of some individual at his ease, who can spare room in his house for you and stabling for your horse; the traveller and his host then converse together on equal terms, but he is paid merely as an inn-keeper."

The General's party probably arrived late at night, as they had to stop for the shoeing and the next day, Sunday, March 4th, they left for Hartford, where the General dined with his friend Jonathan Trumbull, whose diary mentions "March 4th Dies Dom, General Washington came with his aids Col. —, Col. Tilgham (sic). The General left an order for a General Court Martial—set out for Newport, Major General Howe with him."

The Diary of Ezra Stiles p. 519, says: "His Excellency General Washington, passed thro' Hartford Ldsdy (Lordsday) the 4th inst in his way to Rhode Id to visit the French Division of the Allied Armies under him."

In Stone's most interesting book "Our French Allies," speaking of the aids that accompanied General Washington on this journey it says, "Hamilton and Humphreys with him." It struck me as incorrect as soon as I read it, having seen Trumbull's Diary with the name of one of the aids omitted, for I hardly felt that the name of so distinguished a man as Hamilton

was, even then, could have escaped Trumbull as he was writing of the visit. On looking this point up carefully, the following was established: the memorandum in the Congressional Library is in Col. Tench Tilghman's own handwriting which proves very conclusively that it was written at the time, as Varick was secretary at headquarters and would be the one to enter it later. Worthington Ford's "Writings of George Washington," Vol. 14, p. 433, says, Tench Tilghman was appointed Aid June 21st, 1780, and David Humphreys, June 23rd, 1780. I then proved the fact that Hamilton did not accompany General Washington to Rhode Island from finding this statement: "But not the least striking incident of this period is that which resulted in the sudden close of his (Hamilton's) service to the Commander in Chief. We have Hamilton's own account of the affair, written on Feb. 18th, 1781, two days after it happened. Then follows a detailed account of Hamilton's keeping the General waiting and the quarrel which ended with the words "we part." Hamilton never acted as aid again, although they remained friends to the end of their days."*

The party were not allowed to spend anything in Hartford for their entertainment and only on leaving did it cost them \$84 for a ferry.

The next item is Bolton \$540, probably for their dinner. Baker's Itinerary makes the party branch from here to Lebanon and review de Lauzun's troops, but I cannot find that they had time for this as they must get on and spend the night at Potter's at Little Rest, the modern Kingston, Rhode Island.

In Barber's "Historical Collection of Connecticut," p. 320, it appears: "Lebanon—De Lauzon's Legion, about 500 horsemen wintered here. Their encampment was a little south of the church. Rochambeau with five regiments stayed here about three weeks and while here General Washington arrived, stayed three days, and reviewed the troops, who were under the most perfect discipline."

There was a good reason for Washington to press on. He had been warned that his journey might be interrupted. About this Worthington Ford quotes (pp. 164-6 vol. 9) a letter written

before starting by General Washington from New Windsor to the Marquis de Lafayette dated 25th February 1781:

"My dear Marquis. I do not think it very probable that 300 dragoons will trust themselves in the heart of Connecticut but I have nevertheless given the intelligence to the Duke of Lauzun."

De Lauzun was then stationed at Lebanon.

Dr. Ezra Stiles in his Journal hopes that Washington will take the southern road on his return and stop at New Haven.

In a letter written to Governor Hancock by General Washington from Hartford on his way back, he says:

"March 17th, 1781.

Sir, It would have afforded me the greatest pleasure, had I been able to have extended my late visit to Newport, as far as Boston, but the important operations, which may be expected to the Southward, made it necessary for me to return as soon as possible to the North River."

The report of the raid from Long Island to capture him may have had something to do with his having arranged to return by the same route that he went. As one road was about as short as the other "news from the Southward" would have reached him on the shore line earlier if the expresses had been arranged to meet him there, instead of further inland.

To return to the journey, the next stop is at Bolton and \$540 is spent, the horses are shod again and this time they cost more; \$45. Then they arrive at the "Rose of New England," Norwich. Here the party seems to divide, as they have two items of expense,

"Tracy's Norwich,	\$214
"Lothrop's do	720 "

Miss Mary E. Perkins in "Old Houses of Norwich," mentions these names, the owners of which resided on the green, or principal square of the town. "Dr. Philomen Tracy lived on the Green in Norwich, he was a practicing physician more than 55 years." I fancy the two generals stopped with him to dine and the younger officers and men went to Lothrop's, which is spoken of in the same book as follows: "Lothrop's Tavern on the green in Norwich was famous for its punch, Choicest Antigua, loaf sugar by the pailful, lemons, oranges and limes."

The next items are: Ferry at Norwich	\$143
A Guide	150
Preston	1,104

*The "Beacon Biographies, edited by James Schouler, *Alexander Hamilton* by Cabot Lodge" p. 12.

Now of Preston I could find almost nothing except in the account of the Bi-Centennial of the first Church in Preston, Conn., wherein is mentioned the following: "On a building a tablet was placed saying of General Samuel Mott. Eminent Citizen,

SOLDIER OF THE REVOLUTION,
FRIEND OF WASHINGTON."

General Samuel Mott enlisted 1st July 1780 for three years, so no doubt it must have been with him that the General tarried for a rest and refreshment on his journey. Much needed no doubt, as Blanchard, who passed there March 5th in another year, says (p. 67) "Cold, with high winds this morning, rain in the evening."

After Preston they get to "Kinnion's \$1,900." This is of course the modern Kenyon's where they require a guide

"A guide	\$100
do	74"

This country is full of small ponds and lakes so that much valuable time would have been lost without a guide who knew the short cuts.

The next item is "Potter's at Little Rest \$2,796." Here they must have spent the night and started the next morning for the final day's journey to Newport.

There is a most interesting account of the Potter with whom General Washington must have stayed in Daniel Goodwin's new edition of Updike's "History of the Narragansett Church," vol. 1, p. 263. It shows him as a wealthy man with plenty of room to entertain strangers and full of public spirit, but unfortunately he came under the influence of Jemima Wilkinson. He lost a great deal of his property and finally left Rhode Island and ended his days in New York State in a curious community near Geneseo.

For the Narragansett Ferry, or as we should now call it, the Saunderstown Ferry, the party paid \$288. I should say from this price that there was no public boat and that they had to hire a private conveyance. The cost of ferries seems to have been very different and not always in relation to distance.

Colonel Tilghman put down the next as:

"Connecticut do \$288."

of course meaning Conanicut, and so they come to Newport.

II

The arrival and procession have so often been described that it is only necessary here to outline them with the few sidelights I have gleaned in this search of mine. Blanchard's Journal, written from day to day, on the date of March 6th (page 67) says "This day, General Washington, who was expected, arrived at 2 o'clock. He went at once on board the Duc de Bourgogne, where all the Generals were assembled. Then he landed, all the troops were under arms. I was presented to him. His face is beautiful, noble and sweet. He is tall. That evening, I found myself at supper with him. I mark as a happy day, the one on which I could see such a truly great man."

In "The French in Rhode Island," by J. A. Stevens, the author says: "On the 6th about two o'clock in the afternoon he reached Conanicut where he found in waiting the barge of the French Admiral which conveyed him to the Duc de Bourgogne for a conference. Here he was met by Rochambeau and the General Officers of the Army and Fleet."

Evidently General Washington was anxious to have the ships leave for the south to aid Lafayette against Arnold and had felt that his presence would hurry matters. It did to some degree, but from a letter I shall quote later written on his return, they did not start soon enough to please him. To quote again from Mr. Stevens: "On leaving the ship a salute was first fired. Landing at Barney's Ferry, the corner of Long Wharf and Washington Street (then a flat sandy beach) he was again met by the Foreign Officers and escorted to Headquarters in Clarke Street, receiving the same honours that would have been paid to a Marshall of France."

This emphasizing the fact that General Washington was the highest in command, and that the French recognized it, was probably owing to a letter from De la Luzerne in Philadelphia the original of which I saw in the Palais de Archives in Paris. It said that the feeling was strong among the Americans that the French were intending to stay in Rhode Island and had not really come to help the Americans, but to increase their own possessions. De la Luzerne therefore urged Rochambeau to show very clearly that they considered themselves under Washington's command.

"The route was lined by French troops three deep, from the shore to the house. In the evening the whole town was illuminated and a procession was formed of General Washington and his staff and the French officers. They went through the town and then returned to Headquarters preceded by 30 boys carrying lighted candles placed on staves. The night was clear and calm and the whole scene one of great brilliancy."

General Rochambeau entertained Washington and perhaps General Howe at the house still standing at Clarke and Mary Streets, but no doubt the rest of his retinue had to seek other quarters, as Tilghman's items for Newport are:

Poor woman at Newport	75
Mending Sadlery	225
Board at Newport	1450

The town evidently wished to have as much of an army as possible to show the General during his stay and perhaps thought the number small during the procession, so decided to offer an extra inducement that might help matters. I found in the City Hall Records the following entry:

"Town Records, p. 19—Newport Mch 7th 1781

At a Town Meeting by adjournment from Monday the 5th Christopher Ellery Moderator, voted that Wm. Taggart and Dan. Holloway be a Committee to wait upon General Miller, for his approbation of this Town's Quota, of one month, Troops being Quartered in a fort, called by the British Troops Fort Fanning—Voted that two gallons of Cherry Rum be purchased at the Town's expense and brought to this House this afternoon, as a Treat for the Volunteers in the above said Month Service. Voted that this meeting be Adjourned to Three o'clock this afternoon, Peleg Barker, Jr., Town Clerck. At a Town meeting by Adjournment, holden this afternoon Mch 7th 1781 3 o'clock P. M. Christopher Ellery Moderator. After reading the address to His Excellency General Washington and receiving a number of Volunteers for the one month's Service. (This must have been the moment when the Cherry Rum was brought out) the meeting adjourned to tomorrow the 8th inst, at 10 o'clock A. M. A true Record Witness P. B. jr Town Clerck."

The Cherry Rum was not enough to bring out the desired number of Volunteers as the anxious City Fathers felt when they met again.

"At a Town Meeting this 8th of March 1781 * * * * * voted that the Committee appointed to detach this towns Quota of soldiers, unless a sufficient number of Volunteers does appear, proceed in their detachment by way of draught and make a return to the meeting tomorrow at 9 o'clock. Adjourned to tomorrow 9 o'clock.

P. Barker jr.

At a Town Meeting March 9th at 9 o'clock

Voted that the Town Clerk put up a list of the Persons who are drawn at the Granary. Voted that the Moderator and Robert Elliott be a committee to wait on General Rochambeau to request the loan of as many arms as may be necessary for the soldiers, Voted that each Soldier finding himself a blanket for his term of one month shall receive one silver Dollar therefor."

They then adjourned again to March 13th (the day of General Washington's departure) when they met without a quorum and adjourned to March 29th at the Jewish Synagogue, which was used at that time for town purposes as well.

"This meeting fell through, by reason of there not being any members there." The great interest of the visit being over there was perhaps not much business to transact. The resources of Newport were not great at this time and the people who held to the American cause were desperately poor, so it was decided by the city to give candles to those who could not buy them, that every window might show forth its glad message of welcome and sympathy during the procession. This allowance for the candles was not given in money which was very scarce, for Newport Town Records show: "Mch 17th 1781 Voted Gould Marsh should receive one Pound 19-s and 10½ d from the tax now against him, being for 35½ pds. of candles, and one shilling 1½ d for the illuminators when His Excellency General Washington appeared."

How he appeared is best told by a contemporary description of the General that I found in the New England Almanach 1782, published by Edmund Freebetter in New London. (Which Almanach was to be sent to the American prisoners in England).

"General Washington at 47 is a tall, well made man rather large-boned and has a tolerably genteel address. His features are manly and bold, his eyes of a bluish cast, and very lively; his hair a deep brown, his face rather long and marked with the small-pox, his complexion sun-burned and without much color

and his countenance sensible, composed and thoughtful there is a remarkable air of dignity about him with a striking degree of gracefulness. He has an excellent understanding with much quickness, is strictly just, vigilant and generous, gentle in his manners, in Temperament rather reserved, in his morals irreproachable he was never known to exceed the Bound's of the most rigid Temperance."

At this time the facilities for Church Services were much diminished. The armies, both English and French, were obliged to take the churches, as being the only buildings of any size, for hospitals and barracks. Trinity Church seems to have been the only one not so taken. There has always been a pew in Trinity which is pointed out as being the one used by General Washington during service on this visit. In searching for any written description of such a service held in Trinity Church, I have found that none is known to exist. The Rev. Daniel Goodwin of East Greenwich, R. I., in a letter to me states:

"In regard to the General's attendance at Trinity Church on the Sunday of his visit, I have diligently searched every source of information I possess without direct result. There can scarcely be a doubt that services were held regularly (or quite regularly) at that period. The Rev. Moses Badger seems to have passed most of his time at Newport from about 1780 until acceptance of the rectorship of St. John's, Providence in 1786, officiating occasionally during the Revolutionary interregnum. John Bours acted as lay reader from 1781-86. The Rev. John Graves also conducted services there, at times in the same period, as well as the Rev. Samuel Parker (afterwards Bishop) of Boston."

So there was every opportunity for holding service, the church being loaned to the Six-Principal Baptists at that time as well. An enquiry made of Librarian C. S. Bingham of Worcester, Mass., one of the best places to seek Americana, states: "I regret that this library does not possess in its files of the Newport Mercury, the numbers of March or April 1781. I have searched at various times nearly all of the libraries in this country, and England to see how complete a set of the Mercury could be located and have never located numbers of March 9-12, 1781."

Yours truly

(Signed) C. S. BINGHAM, June 9, '10."

A reply from Stevens and Brown in London who made the exhaustive index of Americana contained both in London and Paris Libraries, says: "Your card of June 11 was duly received but we have little hope of finding the Newport Mercury for 9-12 March, 1781 either here or in Paris. Stevens indexed all the manuscript material in London and Paris (index now in Library of Congress) and there were no copies of the Newport Mercury found as enclosures in these letters and despatches. We will enquire if there are any numbers in the British League Nationale or elsewhere. The British Museum has a volume of the Mercury lettered 1763-1786 but on examination we were sorry to find no number for 1781 in it."

A few letters written to Lafayette and others exist dated Newport between the 9th and 12th, but I have as yet found no diary that covers these three days.

There was a great ball, given by the French, and dinners. He also must have been very busy in working out the future plans. But unfortunately the French Diarists went off with the Fleet, and historians in general transfer their interest to the south.

Mrs. Thatcher Thayer, herself an elderly lady in 1878, when we were staying with her in the Vernon house on Church Street, next below the Thayer school, described to me her great-aunt who had told her of General Washington's dining with her father and mother in that house. The little girl, as she then was, having been thought too young to be present, but determined to see the great man, ran out on Church Street and standing on the foot board could just get her eyes above the window-sill and saw him standing with his back to the fire, warming himself. I always think of the quaint little figure when I see the corner window and the foot-board. But Mrs. Thayer never gave me the exact date of the occurrence but I like to think it was on this journey. In all my researches there is nothing against a service having been held in Trinity and everything in favour of it. This extract is from a letter I found in the Congressional Library addressed to the Rev. Mr. Gordon, by General Washington, dated Newport Mch 9th 1781 "Excepting to Mrs. Washington, when she is absent from me, and now and then a letter to a friend (more on business than for the purpose of communication) I rarely put pen to paper for private correspondence. We have as you justly observe abundant

reason to thank Providence for its many favourable interpositions in our behalf. It has, at times been my only dependance, for all other sources seem to have failed us."

The Paper that in circumstantial evidence would have most weight in the Trinity Pew case I found in the Providence Historical Society. It was a bill made out to the accredited lay-reader (who must have helped in the service) on the day before General Washington came to Newport, as follows:

"John Bours": "Dr. to Stephen Franklin 1781 March 5th

Received in part of the above, Balance	\$50. dollars
to 2 pair black silk gloves	£1. 2s 6d "

Black *Silk* gloves were always worn by the clergy of that day when holding services.

(There is very little about the visit in the Rochambeau memorial book, but a letter dated "Newport March 7th says: "General Washington, now here, has authorized the Baron de Viomenil to act at once—if the exigency of the services demand it in concurrence with the militia of the country, without waiting for the detachment from his own army—in case of the latter having been detained." He then makes the mistake of saying, "The 7th General Washington arrived and witnessed the squadron depart on the 8th." It was the 6th the General arrived, March 7th the ball was given by the French officers and on the 8th addresses were presented and received.)

We must leave these last three days of the visit to be written about by another, but I feel very certain that if there was a service in Trinity Church during that time, General Washington went to it. In Blanchard's Journal p. 81 he says, "I am told that when there is no clergyman present, that General Washington says grace, as the father of a family will do in America. The first time that I dined with him, there was no minister, but I did not notice that he said the prayer, still I recollect that in sitting down to table, he made a gesture and said some words which I took for some act of politeness and which perhaps was an act of religion. If so, the prayer was short and the minister put more ceremony into it." Presumably the General had some short formula like the "Benedictus Benedicat" that is the only grace at Exeter College, Oxford, which I have heard said there by the late Regius Professor of Divinity.

Count Rochambeau had made a great point of more guns to protect the ferries and probably at the last moment General Washington decided that letters could not have the effect in procuring them that a personal interview would have, and so went himself to see the Governor in Providence about them, as the following letter will show:

"To Governor Greene.

Rhode Island.

New Port 12th March 1781.

Sir

I have been honoured with your Excellency's polite favour of the 8th. It would have given me singular pleasure, had circumstances admitted of my making a Visit to Providence on my return to the Army, but the very interesting intelligence which we may now daily expect from the Southward makes it necessary for me to return by the route on which the chain of Expresses are Stationed, lest I should miss the dispatches which they may bring.

His Excellency the Count de Rochambeau informs me, that there are some heavy Cannon at Providence, which do not appear to be of any great use there; but which would be of particular service to him, in the defence of this post, he being obliged to strip a Frigate of her Guns to mount some of his heavy field Artillery for want of the number required for the Works. When it is considered that this place effectually covers Providence, I flatter myself your Excellency will find no difficulty with the Legislature in granting the Count's request, should you not have the Power yourself to lend the Guns in question.

The detachment, which I, a little time ago, made from the troops in the Vicinity of West Point, obliged me to call upon the neighboring States to send in the recruits which were raised. I directed my order to Lt. Colo. Olney for those of Rhode Island, and I have not the least doubt of that Gentleman's punctuality in the execution of it, so far as respects the men, who have been delivered to him; But I must entreat your Excellency's exertions to procure the deficiency of your quota if any yet remains, that they may arrive at the Army, time enough to receive the necessary discipline before they are carried into service.

I have the honour to be &c.

GO: WASHINGTON.

P. S. Since writing the foregoing letter, I have for particular reasons determined to return by the way of Providence and shall set out in the morning for that place."

III

Leaving Newport March 13th he only dines and passes through Bristol reaching Providence that night, or possibly North Warren, now Barrington. In the History of Narragansett Church, it is stated that General Washington stopped at the Reynolds house in Bristol—but in a recent letter the Rev. Daniel Goodwin corrects that, having heard from Mr. Reynolds that although Lafayette wrote many letters dated at his house in Bristol, there is no tradition that General Washington stopped there in 1781. In 1783 he stopped a week at the Mount, the home of the de Wolfs, so it is likely that it was there that he dined on his way to Providence. The citizens of Bristol gave him a great ovation and processions and addresses of welcome are recorded, although there had been so little time to prepare, as will be seen from a letter from Count Rochambeau dated just after his departure.

"Newport Mch 14th 1781" they were addressed to the Governors of Rhode Island and Massachusetts. He says:

"His Excellency General Washington has honoured us five or six days with his presence, I could not notify Your Excellency, because he took me by surprise bringing in person his answer to my letter in which I had the honour to acquaint him with the decision about the departure of the fleet. He was pleased with the provision made to receive the enemy in case, after the departure of the Squadron and the defencelessness of this harbour, it should please the English Fleet to do you harm here. He found the Land batteries which protect the ferries, absolutely without big guns, so he believes it to be essential for your Excellency to furnish them."

In Providence General Washington only spent one night.

Tilghman's expenses state:

"Bristol Ferry	240"
Providence Ferry	96
Providence	848"

This latter place was smaller than Newport in those days. In Col. Israel Angell's Journal 1780 he says "Providence is a pretty enough little town, quite a business place before the war. There is nothing of interest in it except an extremely beautiful

Hospital. The rivers meet there and flow together to the sea. It has from 1800 to 2,000 inhabitants."

In the Rhode Island Record there is an entry as follows:

"Bills ordered paid in March 1781.

To Shubael Burr, for entertaining General Washington and suite £12 s12 d0."

From Welcome A. Greene, Esq. July 3rd 1912:

"The only records of Shubael Burr (accessible to me) are two deeds one *to* him dated Mch 20 1769 and one *from* him dated June 1st 1769, both covering the same property on Goal Lane (Meeting Street). In both he is described as 'Merchant of Warren R. Id.' Note at that time *Warren* included present Barrington, so S. B. may live there. His father was Samuel Burr of Rehoboth. Washington probably left Newport and arrived as far as Burr's at night and went on to Providence in the morning."

In these same Records we find an answer to the letter from Count Rochambeau about the cannon:

"3rd Monday in March, voted and resolved, that Major Wm. Perkins be, directed to deliver unto the order of Count Rochambeau fifteen cannon belonging to the State of 24 and 18 pds, if so many are to be found, for the use of the French Army in the fortifications of the State."

There is a road which leads from Providence to the Hudson, which is called the Hartford Road on both sides of that town, it leaves Providence north of Olneyville. It is likely that the officers returned by that way. Their first record stop is:

"Dorrence's 720"

In the present town of Sterling in the Township of Voluntown, Conn. This was a famous stopping place, as almost every Diary of that date mentions it. It was near the main highway known as the Plainfield Pike. John Dorrence from Scituate, R. I., is spoken of as a lawyer in 1782—his father Samuel Dorrence moved from there to Voluntown and became an inn-keeper.

Col. Israel Angell says:

"25th March 1781 Clear cold. My wagon came up this morning after breakfast. I set forward after having hired Capt. Cacon to help me on as far as Dorrence's in Voluntown (Conn.)" De Chastellux devotes several pages to the place.

"Bolton 346"

De Chastellux says of this: "We follow the Hope River Valley to Bolton town which has nothing remarkable. From there we travel over a chain of pretty lofty mountains which extend north and south like all the hills in Connecticut."

In the Diary of a French Officer 1781, reprinted in the Magazine of American History, Vol. 4, is the following description:

"June 21st we came to Bolton, road frightful (they must have been worse in March). The country all the way from Providence is covered with woods. At Bolton the view is very pleasing."

From there it is 18 miles to "Hartford Ferry 54" I reckon that they arrived here late Friday evening and spent all Saturday and that night—probably arranging for the 30,000 dollars from Mr. Burwell, mentioned in the account book and awaiting those despatches from the South.

General Washington must have refreshed himself mentally by intercourse with his great friend Jonathan Trumbull, who notes in his Journal: "March 17th, 1781, dined at Mr. Platt's with General Washington and spent the afternoon."

The expenses are put down as "Hartford 960".

Now they come to Farmington again, where one gets a glimpse of him going to Church as it is Sunday and contributing to the collection. Mr. Julius Gay of Farmington, doubts the truth of the tradition that the General went to church during a rain storm instead of the more comfortable inn near by. Tradition goes on to say that he put a handful of coin in the contribution box, a 1-2 d. falling on the floor. This latter Mr. Gay has in his possession, though doubting its origin.

On page 37 of the facsimile of General Washington's account book, he records that they had paper, and *specie* where paper would not pass.

"Widow Strong's 250."

This place I have not been able to identify. It must have been either in Litchfield or on the way there.

"Litchfield 1375"

In "Sketches of Litchfield, Conn.," by P. Kenyon Killbourn p. 130 it says: "General Washington stopped many times at Litchfield. Once at Morgan's Tavern, another time at the Gould House on North Street known as Sheldon's Tavern. Captain Salmon Buel remembers going with fifty of his school-fellows to

see the General that morning." From Litchfield they retrace their steps as they came.

"Morehouses 592

Vanderberg's 50

Brinckerhof's 100"

Abram Brinckerhoff kept a general store during the Revolution but he must have also had a place for the accommodation of travellers as a letter from Mrs. Samuel Verplanck of Fishkill, dated April 23, 1910, states: "Brinckerhoff's is two miles above Fishkill and seven from the river. It was there General Lafayette stayed several weeks while he was ill."

March 20th the party reach New Winsor and take up their former routine work. On the 21st General Washington writes: "I arrived my dear Chevalier in the forenoon of yesterday, after passing over very bad roads and riding through very foul weather without any damage."

As to the reason for all this trouble and fatigue, I think it is found in the letter written to General Schuyler. Fearing Rochambeau would not send the fleet South soon enough, he tried to hasten the departure, but did not quite succeed. The cause of the ships not getting away on the day planned, was that one ran aground in leaving the harbour and had to be carefully examined before starting. The letter to General Schuyler is as follows:

"New Windsor, Mar. 23rd, 1781.

Dear Sir:

Upon my return to this place 3 days ago, I had the pleasure to receive your favour of the 25th ultimo. I thank you for the honour you intended me, if Mrs. Schuyler had added a Son to your family, and cheerfully become a sponsor for the Daughter, on the birth of whom, and the good health of your lady, please to accept, and offer my congratulatory compliments.

By a manoeuvre, too profound for my understanding, if it is intended for the public good, the choice of a Minister of War is postponed 'till October. I have heard no reason assigned for it, and am uncharitable enough to believe that no *good one* can be given.

We are in a most critical and disagreeable state of suspense with respect to the two fleets. Neither had arrived in the Chesapeake Bay the 15th instant, when letters from the Marquis and Baron de Steuben were dated at Yorktown (20 miles from the Mouth of Jame's River) though both were expected.

How unhappy it is for all our measures, that the adoption of them cannot be in Season! Had the French Commanders at Rhode Island complied (in the first instance) with my request to send the whole Fleet, and a detachment from their Land force to Virginia, the destruction of Arnold's Corps must have been complete during the debilitated state of the British Fleet. The undertaking now is bold and precarious, rendered more so, by an unfortunate and to me unaccountable delay of 24 hours in their quitting Newport; after it was said they were ready to sail; the Wind being as favourable to them and as adverse to the Enemy as Heaven could furnish. But it is our true policy to make the most of their assistance without answering their mistakes. Therefore it is I communicate this in confidence.

By my last advices from General Greene, Lord Cornwallis was retreating; but the design of his retrograde movement was not sufficiently explained. General Greene was advancing and the Militia assembling. The situation of things there, and in Virginia, are critical and big with important events. God grant they may be favourable to us.

I am, with great Esteem and Regard, and much affection,

Dear Sir,

Your most obedt. servant,

G. WASHINGTON.

If it seemed at the moment as if things were going wrong, they went right eventually and the co-operation of the French has left us deeply in their debt with gratitude towards a friend in need.

Dr. the United States to Lt. Colo. Tilghman—Cr.

1781	March—To Cash pd. Expences	1781	March—By Cash of Mr. Colfax...	6000
	of the commander in		" By do. of Mr. Bund }	30000
	Chief to Nerport &		at Hartford..... }	
	back to New Wind-		May—By do. of Mr. Colfax....	20000
	sor—vizt.			

	dollars.
Vanderbergs	483
Morehouses	1034
Getting a Horse out }	215
of Bulls Falls }	
Litchfield.	687
Shoeing Horses.....	34
Farmington	1048½
Hartford Ferry.....	84
Bolton.....	540
Shoing Horses.....	45
Traceys Norwich....	214
Lothrop's do	720
Ferryde.....	143
A Guide	150
Preston	1104
Kinnions	1900
A Guide	100
do.....	74
Potters at Little Rest.	2796
Narragansett Ferry ..	288
Connancuit do.....	288
Poor Woman at New-	
port.....	75
Mending Sadlery.....	225
Board at Newport....	1450
Bristol Ferry.....	240
Providence Ferry.....	96
Providence	848
Dorrences	720
Bolton.....	346
Harford Ferry.....	54
Harford	960
Farmington	560
Widow Strongs.....	250
Litchfield.....	1375
Morhouses.....	592
Vanderburgs	50
Brinkerhoffs.	100

19884½

56,000

